

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0002] as follows:

[0002]Patient connectors for peritoneal dialysis are known, for example, from EP 0 715 860 B1 or ~~DE 198 14 047 C1~~ United States Patent No. 6,482,189. These connectors permit sterile connection and disconnection of patients undergoing peritoneal dialysis treatment. With patient connectors of this kind, a closure plug is inserted on completion of peritoneal dialysis into the connector of the tube portion going into the patient's abdominal cavity. The entrance to the patient's abdominal cavity is thus closed off in sterile manner.

Please amend paragraph [0006] as follows:

0006]A device of this kind permits loading, under sterile conditions, of a patient connector whose closure plug has already been used with a new closure plug. By loading the patient connector with a new closure plug of the kind known from ~~DE 198 14 047 C1~~ United States Patent No. 6,482,189, the push-button with which the closure plug is inserted is also returned to its starting position, so that the patient connector is available for another connection/disconnection procedure. A patient connector

can be reloaded several times in this way, the advantage being that costs are only incurred when a connection/disconnection procedure is actually intended.

Please amend paragraph [0034] as follows:

[0034]FIG. 2a illustrates the start of the reloading procedure for a patient connector (PK) of the type known from ~~DE 198 14 047 C1~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,482,189: the push-button 4 of the patient connector (PK) is still in the depressed position following the previous insertion of a closure plug. The tube section 2 with the new, sterile closure plug 1 is inserted into the patient connector (PK) at the socket-shaped end opposite the push-button 4, until the new closure plug 1 makes contact with the lower end of the push-button 4. Subsequently (FIG. 2b), the internal thread 5 of the protective cap 3 is screwed onto the external thread 6 of the patient connector (PK), causing the closure plug 1 to exert pressure on the push-button 4 of the patient connector (PK) and push it back up to its starting position. FIG. 2b shows the final position of the reloading procedure: the push-button 4 is once again in its starting position and can exert pressure on the closure plug 1 immediately in front of it in the socket of the patient connector (PK); as a result, a further connection/disconnection procedure can be

carried out with the patient connector (PK). Due to the fact that the retention force between the patient connector (PK) and the closure plug 1 is greater than that between the tube section 2 and the closure plug 1, the closure plug 1 remains in the patient connector (PK) when the protective cap 3 and the tube section 2 attached thereto are removed from the patient connector (PK).

Please amend paragraph [0044] as follows:

[0044]The reloading device 12 is then connected with the patient connector PK in the organizer 10 (FIG. 4e) and the actuating button 8 of the reloading device 12 pressed (FIG. 4f) in order to transfer the new closure plug 1 into the patient connector, and to move its push-button ~~4~~ back into the starting position ~~(FIG. 4f)~~.

Please amend paragraphs [0049] and [0050] as follows:

[0049]FIG. 5a to 5e show the assembly and application of a reloading device 12 for reloading a patient connector PK with a closure plug 1; the device has a movable actuating mechanism 15 for transferring the closure plug 1. In FIGS. 5a to 5c, the actuating mechanism is shown in its starting position. The first step (FIGS. 5b and 5c) comprises screwing the reloading device 12

onto the free end of the patient connector PK. The second step (FIG. 5d and FIG. 5e) comprises moving the actuating device 15, which is illustrated as a manually operated plunger, and thereby pushing the closure plug 1 out of its protected position in the reloading device 12 and into the patient connector PK; as a result, the actuating button 8 4 of the patient connector PK is returned to the extended position, from where it can be actuated again.

[0050]FIG. 6a to FIG. 6c illustrate an alternative version of a reloading device 12 of this kind. Here too, the first step (FIG. 6b) comprises screwing the reloading device onto the free end of the patient connector (PK). In this embodiment, the housing 7, which surrounds and protects the tube section 2 with the closure plug 1, is provided with an internal thread 16. The tube section 2 has a corresponding external thread 17. FIG. 6c illustrates how screwing the rear portion--i.e. the portion that holds the tube section 2--of the reloading device 12 with the housing 7 displaces the closure plug 1 and returns the actuating button 8 4 to its starting position again.